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**The Iowa Blind History Archive
History of Blindness in Iowa - Oral History Project
Interview with [Name]
Conducted by [Name]
[Date]
Transcribed by [Name]**

NOTE: Any text included in brackets [] is information that was added by the narrator after reviewing the original transcript. Therefore, this information is not included in the audio version of the interview.

**Mavis McVeety, Age 67; Des Moines, Iowa
Mike Hicklin
Iowa Department for the Blind
11-5-2010**

Mike Hicklin: Today we have Mavis McVeety. We're at the Iowa Department for the Blind. It is November 5, 2010, approximately 3:20. We've been celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Library. My name is Mike Hicklin. All

stories submitted to this project will become part of the History of Blindness Collection owned by the Iowa Department for the Blind. By submitting your story, you are acknowledging that your story is a gift, which transfers to the Iowa Department for the Blind all legal title and all literary property rights. You will be granting to the Iowa Department for the Blind an unrestricted license to use your recording and all the information which it contains in any manner the Department for the Blind may wish to use it, for as long as the Iowa Department for the Blind wishes to use it. Do we have your oral consent to record this story, Mavis?

Mavis McVeety: Yes, you do.

Hicklin: Okay. Tell us your name, age, and where you live.

McVeety: My name is Mavis McVeety. I'm 67 years old, and I live in Des Moines, Iowa.

Hicklin: Okay, Mavis, what story would you like to talk about today?

McVeety: Well, I just want to talk a little bit about my relationship with the Department for the Blind, in particular, the Library. And, I began using Library services when I came here as a student in 1961, in the Orientation Center. And, I got to use the Braille Library here. You were just getting started at that point. In the fall of 1961, I went to The University of Northern Iowa, and while I was attending school there, the Library was very helpful in getting books for me both in Braille and on cassette or on tape. Since then, I have received two master's degrees, in which the

Library was helpful in getting materials. And, now that I'm retired, I'm not working, but I still use the Library. We have Braillists here who help produce music for me. I'm a singer in the Drake University Community Chorus, and so the Library is very helpful in producing the Braille music that I use for that. I also have enjoyed countless hours of wonderful reading, thanks to the services of the Library. I don't know what I would do without them in my life. Thank you.

Hicklin: Have you had an opportunity to use the new digital players?

McVeety: Yes, I have, and I think they're just wonderful. I especially like the sleep settings. Sometimes I would fall asleep reading a cassette book, and this is really wonderful because you can set it for 15 minutes or a half hour, and you don't lose your place in your book.

Hicklin: It's certainly amazing the clarity that is on the digital, versus the old noise that was on the cassettes.

McVeety: That's certainly true. It's just amazing that the audio reproduction...how clear and how wonderful it really is. Plus, it's really nice you don't have to rewind the books and worry about getting all the cassettes back in their boxes. It's all contained on one cassette, one disk, and that's really marvelous.

Hicklin: Have you found the Braille collection that we have here, which is one of the larger ones, I think, in the country, that to be an asset to your reading enjoyment?

McVeety: It certainly is, and it's been really surprising to me that I will give a book to my family for Christmas, a print book, and six months later or six months to a year later, I'm able to get that same book to read in Braille. So, I just really, it seems just wonderful.

Hicklin: Is there anything else that you can think of, Mavis?

McVeety: No, I don't think so, except that I just want to say how wonderful I think the Library service has been, and what a wonderful part it has played in my life. Thanks.

Hicklin: What did you think of the 50th anniversary today?

McVeety: Oh, I thought it was just great.

Hicklin: Certainly interesting to hear stories of folks and the presentations.

McVeety: Yes, it certainly was. And, really good to see such a big turn-out; lots of people here today.

Hicklin: Well, again, thank you very much, Mavis.

McVeety: Thank you.

5:11

(End of Recording)

Jo Ann Slayton

7-1-2011